

Message Text

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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 104736 TOSEC 110468

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNCTAD, UR, US

SUBJECT: ACTION MEMORANDUM - BILATERAL MEETING WITH
PATOLICHEV DURING UNCTAD IV (S/S NO.7609064)

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM LOWENSTEIN THRU SONNENFELDT

1. THE PROBLEM

WE HAVE CONFIRMED WITH EMBASSY MOSCOW THAT PATOLICHEV
DOES INTEND TO LEAD THE SOVIET DELEGATION TO UNCTAD IV.
THIS RAISES TWO QUESTIONS: SHOULD YOU SEEK A BILATERAL
MEETING WITH HIM IN NAIROBI? HOW SHOULD YOU RESPOND IF
HE ASKS FOR A BILATERAL MEETING WITH YOU?

2. REASONS IN FAVOR OF SEEKING BILATERAL:

-- OPPORTUNITY FOR HIGH-LEVEL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON UNCTAD;
CONSISTENT WITH OUR LONG-RANGE INTEREST IN ENCOURAGING
MORE RESPONSIBLE SOVIET BEHAVIOR ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC
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ISSUES;

-- CHANCE TO GIVE SOVIETS AUTHORITATIVE STATEMENT OF OUR CURRENT POLICY ON US-SOVIET TRADE RELATIONS AND TO EMPHASIZE THE "INCENTIVE" TRACK IN OUR POLICY TOWARDS THE USSR.

3. REASONS FOR NOT SEEKING IT:

-- A BILATERAL WITH THE SOVIETS IN AFRICA NOW COULD BE SEEN AS EVIDENCE THAT WE ARE NOT SERIOUS ABOUT OUR OPPOSITION TO SOVIET ADVENTURISM IN THE ANGOLA CONTEXT.

-- SOVIETS DO NOT PLAY A MAJOR ROLE ON UNCTAD ISSUES OF INTEREST TO US AND IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THEY CAN BE PERSUADED TO DO SO.

-- DISCUSSION OF BILATERAL TRADE ISSUES WITH PATOLICHEV NOW WOULD NOT BE CONSISTENT WITH OUR RECENT POSTPONEMENT OF JOINT COMMERCIAL COMMISSION MEETING.

-- LDC'S AT UNCTAD MIGHT SUSPECT SOME US-SOVIET COLLUSION ON NORTH-SOUTH ISSUES.

-- MEETING WITH THE SOVIETS BUT NOT WITH THE CHINESE WOULD CREATE THE WRONG IMAGE ABOUT OUR VIEW OF BOTH COUNTRIES' AFRICAN POLICIES.

4. RECOMMENDATION:

THAT WE NOT TAKE THE INITIATIVE FOR A BILATERAL WITH PATOLICHEV.

APPROVE DISAPPROVE

HOWEVER, IF THE SOVIETS ASK FOR A BILATERAL WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD AGREE. REFUSING TO MEET PATOLICHEV WOULD GIVE A STRONGER NEGATIVE SIGNAL TO THE SOVIETS THAN WE THINK IS WARRANTED NOW.

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ALTERNATIVELY, YOU MIGHT WISH TO HAVE THE DEPUTY SECRETARY MEET WITH PATOLICHEV.

APPROVE DISAPPROVE

ALTERNATIVELY, YOU COULD EXCHANGE GREETINGS BRIEFLY WITH PATOLICHEV AND IF HE SEEKS BILATERAL STATE THAT YOU HAVE

INSTRUCTED USDEL TO EXCHANGE VIEWS IN DEPTH AT BOEKER/DALE
LEVEL LATER IN CONFERENCE AS YOUR SCHEDULE TOO FULL TO
PERMIT PROPER REVIEW WITH PATOLICHEV.

APPROVE DISAPPROVE

5. DRAFTED: EUR/SOV:WEDGAR; CLEARED: EB, IO, SONNENFELDT
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